Reviewer’s report

Title: Generic health literacy measurement instruments for children and adolescents: A systematic review of the literature

Version: 1 Date: 23 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Nancy Morris

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have addressed many of the concerns from the previous review. There are still some issues with English language/word choices/sentence structure. I think some of the sections in the discussion could be shortened up as they go beyond the result of the review.

Abstract line 6 - typo in word measure - "e" is missing

Page 6 Line 45 - need the word "The" preceding sentence "following algorithm was used in PubMed…"

Page 16 line 2 - consider revising word choice - recommend use of the word "other" rather than "further"

Page 16, line 33 - suggest deleting "only poor" and replacing with "the authors of that study did not provide adequate information on their instrument."

Page 16 lines 35-40. Suggest revision to something like, "In conclusion, there is a lack of adequate information on health literacy instruments for primary school children and no instruments available to assess the health literacy of children younger than seven."

Page 16 lines 41-47. These sentences are confusing as written. Is your intent something like the following? "Health literacy is important for young children, but the conceptualization and measurement of health literacy will be different from the approach taken with adults. Existing health literacy concepts specific to adult address how people understand, evaluate, and use health information, which may not be appropriate for children of primary school age who are not making all the health related decision that affect them.

Page 17 end of line 5 - suggest changing "take" to "make" …the major health-related decisions.

Page 17 lines 19-21 Instead of "Even if self reported health literacy measurement has been used in many studies; consider "Although self-reported health literacy measurement has been used in many studies....."

Page 17 lines 32-39. This is a confusing sentence to understand. Is your intent something like the following? "Ethical concerns related to objective measures have highlighted the potential
discomfort that participants with low health literacy skills may feel if they are ashamed or embarrassed by their abilities."

Page 17 line 46. Word choice: not actually always true - consider changing "would" to "may" and "more precise" to "richer"

Page 17 lines 54-59. Consider the following changes to improve flow of reading. "Including participants in the development of a the health literacy questionnaire has proven to be a sound method in order to improve the quality of the measurement tool [75]. Regarding the development of new and innovative health literacy tools, it is recommended to include the target population in the development process as early as possible [76]."

Page 18 line 10 - change "there" to "their"

Page 20, line 31. Consider changing "aim at accessing" to "try to access"

Page 20 line 52 - not clear what you mean by saying "apply their health literacy"

Page 21 lines 7-8. - Not clear what you mean by stating "the health literacy relevant contexts are also subject to the questionnaires for children and adolescents."

Page 21 Lines 46-48, not clear what you are trying to say here, "an understanding which is restricting health literacy to functional literacy abilities in health care context"

Page 21 lines 49-58 - sentences not clear…I would argue that the REALM-teen, the TOFHLA and the NVS are not testing the same construct of health literacy - they are all testing different components (reading of print material, numeracy, comprehension) of the larger concept. For another one instrument the authors (suggest being specific as to what you are referring to - instrument and author) state in their description that they are were measuring functional health literacy, but in fact it is health knowledge what is being measured

Page 22 lines 1-2. Consider revision - , but evidently it is not well reflected within the identified child and adolescent instruments.

Page 23 line 29 - suggest putting a period after operationalized and deleting the following words. "in specification that was appl"

Page 25 line 25. Delete "it can be concluded" and begin sentence with, "Children's meaningful involvement" as you can't conclude this from your study data as you didn't assess the impact/value of children's meaningful involvement.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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